

### *Patient Acceptance*

Is disability a help or hindrance? In my judgment, it has clearly been more of a help. Indeed, I have become concerned that some patients may become apologetic for their complaints and therefore tend to minimize their problems. It also appears to me that many people, who are malingering or are seeking excessive claims such as might occur in a worker's compensation case, resist the temptation to exaggerate their problems.

The above are just a few comments that occurred to me as I was reading your article. Mainly I wished to thank you for what, ironically or sadly, is a fresh approach to the problem of the "impaired physician."

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### REFERENCE

1. Corbet B, Madorsky JG: Physicians with disabilities, *In* Rehabilitation Medicine—Adding Life to Years (Special Issue). West J Med 1991; 154:514-521

### The Value of Defiance

TO THE EDITOR: There are so many forces, like vultures at carrion, picking away at the contemporary practice of medicine that it is no wonder that so many physicians are experiencing discontent and alienation. However impractical it may be to do so, those forces must be challenged. Otherwise, we lose our self-respect and we lose touch with the fundamental core of what being a physician truly embraces.

After 20 years in medicine, I have come to appreciate the value of defiance in defense of more timeless virtues:

HONOR in defiance of TEMPTATION  
EXCELLENCE in defiance of FATIGUE  
RESOLUTION in defiance of HORROR  
COMPASSION in defiance of LOATHING  
ELEGANCE in defiance of CHAOS

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